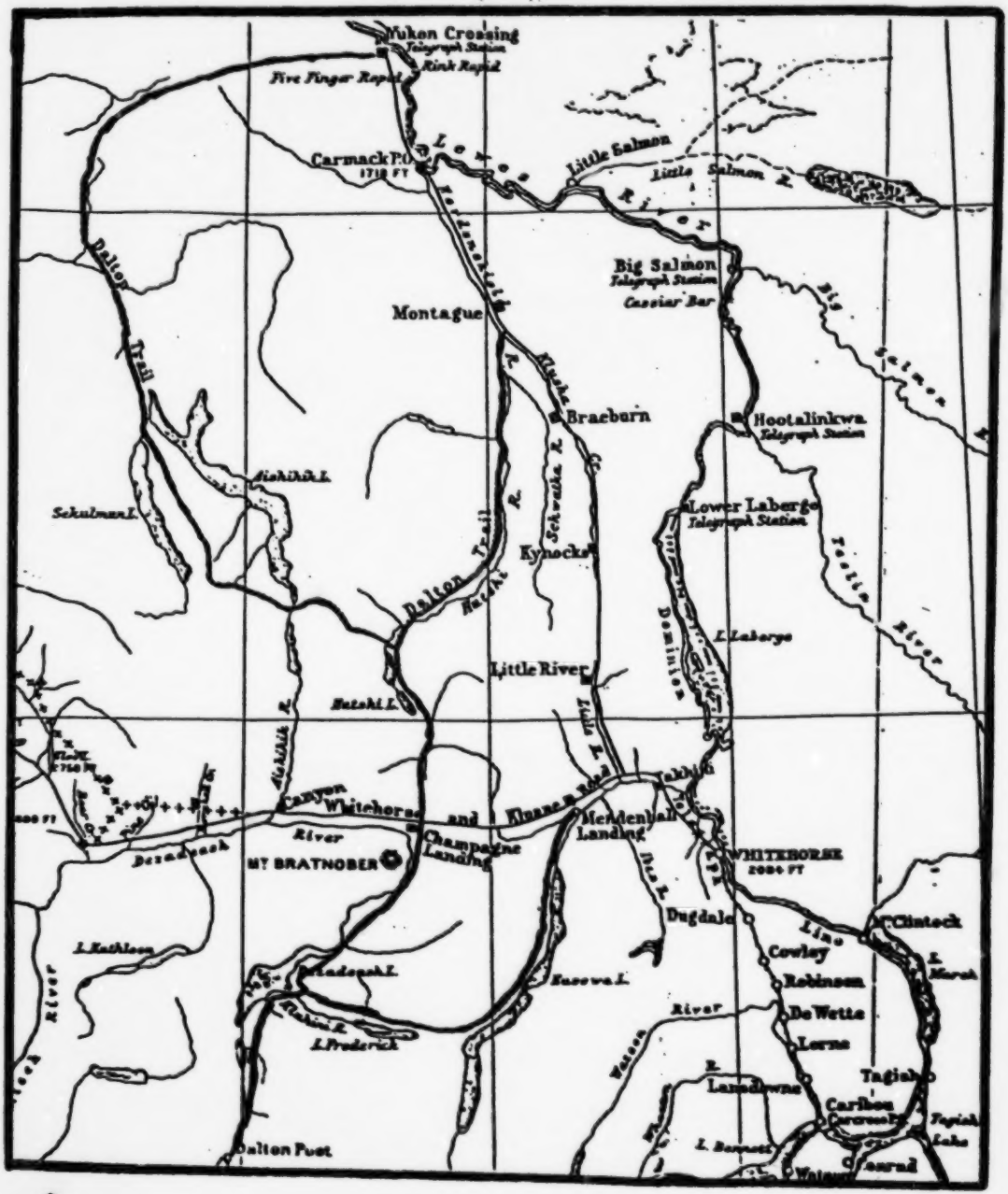
DALTON TRAIL

A bibliography of sources available

at Yukon Archives



Yukon Education

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FORWARD

For centuries the Chilkat Indians in southeast Alaska guarded their trading trail up the Chilkat River and through the Coastal Mountains into the interior of what is now the Yukon Territory. At the settlement of Nesketaheen the Chilkats traded with other Indian tribes from Klukshu, Hutshi Lakes, Aishihik, and Copper River. In the late 1880s increased numbers of prospectors, explorers, missionaries and others moved up the coast from Seattle, British Columbia and other areas and "the secret trail of the Chilkats was soon 'discovered'".[1]

In 1890 an expedition sponsored by the Frank Leslie Illustrated Newspaper and led by E. Hazard Wells and E.J. Glave working for the Frank Leslie Illustrated Newpaper, with A.B. Schantz and Jack Dalton, travelled the trail to Kusawa Lake. Here the group split, with Dalton and Glave returning down the Alsek River to the sea coast. The following year Glave and Dalton took the first packhorses from Pyramid Harbour to Lake Kluane. Accounts of these journeys which describe this country, its Indian settlements and activities have been published.[2]

Jack Dalton saw the potential for the country and made plans to establish trading posts along a trail into the interior. By 1896 he had built a home and trading post at Pyramid Harbour, a post at Pleasant Camp; and one at Dalton House, a mile upstream on the Tatshenshini River from Nesketaheen. Dalton's trail, following closely the old Chilkat route, was a successful toll

road. He freighted supplies to the Yukon River for the mining population and charged $2.50 per horse and $2.00 a head for cattle. The first livestock to reach Dawson City during the Klondike Gold Rush came over the Dalton Trail. Some of the Klondike miners also used the Dalton trail route to the gold fields. When the road was improved for wagons, the trip from Pyramid Harbour to Rink Rapids on the Yukon River, a distance of about 305 miles, cost $150.00 which included horses and maintenance.[3] In 1898 Dalton brought in two hundred and fifty Oregon horses and started the Dalton Pony Express to give rapid mail and passenger service to connections along the Yukon River. However, the White Pass and Yukon Route's steamers soon put him out of business.[4]

In 1898 a small North West Mounted Police garrison was established at Dalton Post. Initially officers' quarters, sergeant's quarters, men's quarters, a storehouse and hen-house were built. Log construction was used, with whip-sawed lumber used for flooring. A lime kiln was built with rocks, and crystalized limestone used to turn out lime for the plastering of the different quarters.[5] The N.W.M.P. officers collected customs duties, handled mail, patrolled the Dalton Trail, dealt with crime, acted as mining recorders and land agents, took a regular census and recorded information on the Indian population, mining activity and all aspects of life in the area.

Many prospectors came into the Shakwak Valley via the Dalton Trail and explored the creeks along the way. Gold strikes occurred at Shorty Creek, Mush Creek and Porcupine Creek. As mining settlements grew, temporary police detachments and cabins for the use of patrols were built at several locations along the Dalton

Trail, including Rainy Hollow and Bear Camp. In December 1903 police and Canadian customs offices were moved to Pleasant Camp at the U.S./Canadian border, at the same time as the Alaska Boundary Commission and joint boundary surveys were conducted. A U.S. customs building and a roadhouse were also located at Pleasant Camp. Remains of the old Canadian customs building are visible today.

Inspector Jarvis of the N.W.M.P. noted in 1901 that the Dalton Trail "is much in need of repair". He commented: "Three years before the Klondike was heard of, Mr. Dalton blazed his route into the interior, acting as guide to the explorers, in which he has done important work, or trading in furs. When the rush to the gold fields took place he spent large sums in bridges and corduroy...at great benefit to the country. I should like to see Mr. Dalton recompensed for this unprofitable outlay."[6] Nothing apparently came of this suggestion although Jack Dalton certainly profited from his other ventures, including fur trade and mining claims.

In mid-July 1906 the Dalton House detachment was withdrawn, "the Dalton Trail being very little travelled and only by Indians."[7] The Shakwak Valley area was then served by the Whitehorse district Mounted Police.

One factor contributing to the decline of the Dalton Trail was the construction of the Throp's Trail on the east side of Chilkat Inlet. The Alaska Road Commission built a wagon road along this route from Port William Seward outside Haines to Porcupine; by 1916 automobiles could drive as far as Klukwan. In 1943, the U.S. Army constructed the Haines Cutoff to the Alaska Highway generally

paralleling the old Dalton Trail from the border, through British Columbia and into the Yukon Territory. The road was opened to the public in 1947.

The Dalton Trail, largely overgrown today, played an important role in the Klondike Gold Rush. Although its use was short-lived the arrival of fresh meat in Dawson City via Dalton's trail was essential to the food supply of Dawson. It is also remarkable that Jack Dalton "enforced his tolls, even at gunpoint, continuously for the economic life of his trail".[8]

A bibliography of sources available at the Yukon Archives about the Dalton Trail follows.

Footnotes

1. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Field Office. Corporate Record 82/259, (L/9/1).

2. E.J. Glave, "Our Alaska expedition: exploration of the unknown Alsek River region," Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, Pamphlet 1890-3, 1891-5, and "Pioneer pack horses in Alaska," Century Illustrated Magazine, 1892-4C.

3. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, 82/259.

4. Ellen Harris, "A History of the Development of Settlements in the Shakwak Valley Area", Yukon College Teacher Education Program, Manuscript 81/118, folder 5 of 13.

5. Report of Inspector A.M. Jarvis, Appendix H, North West Mounted Police Annual Report, 1898.

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7. Report of Superintendant A.E. Snyder, Whitehorse, Appendix A., North West Mounted Police Annual Report, 1906, page 21.

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Introduction

Much has been written about Jack Dalton and the Dalton Trail, covering subjects such as location and physical description, Indian and white settlements, trade relations, archaeological studies, mining activity and cattle drives in the large area surrounding the Dalton Trail and its offshoots.

This bibliography lists sources available in the Yukon Archives on the Dalton Trail. Many different formats of material are included. They have been compiled under the five separate categories listed below.

I. Publications: includes books, pamphlets, periodical articles and newspapers.

II. Manuscripts, Corporate Records and Government Records:

includes private papers of individuals, families and corporate bodies and files of government departments.

III. Photographs.

IV. Maps.

V. Sound recordings.

Within each category, the sources are listed alphabetically by author. The citations include the retrieval location (left hand column), the name of author or name of collection, publication or collection date, title and publisher, name of periodical and page numbers where relevant. An "R" next to the location of an item indicates that restrictions may apply to the access or use of that particular collection.

All media except published books are stored in the vault. Reference staff are pleased to help you find and use these materials and to assist in investigating sources beyond those listed.

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II. MANUSCRIPTS, CORPORATE RECORDS, AND GOVERNMENT RECORDS

MS
82/240
F-39

Banks, Henry Dow (1898)
An account written by Henry D. Banks of his trip to Chicago, Seattle, and Victoria on his way to the Klondike Gold Rush via the Dalton Trail.

MS
82/390-2
F-119

Beatty, James Edward, (ca. 1899-1901)
Photocopies of a prospecting/surveying diary kept by James Beatty recounting his trip over the Dalton Trail.

GR
microfilm
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Reel #12

Canada. R.C.M.P. Records
Microfilm copy of the Yukon records of the N.W.M.P. filmed by the Public Archives of Canada as RG 18, D 1-4. Series 4, volume 13, "Sketches and Blueprints of Police Reserves, 1900-1903," contains sketches of the Dalton Trail Post.

MS
78/69-1
F-78, f.27
F-88, f.1,3

Coutts, Robert C. (1847,1978)
The collection includes a research file on Jack Dalton compiled by Robert Coutts (Box F-78, f.27), correspondence written by Albert Lee during his travels over the Dalton Trail (Box F-88, f.1&3), and description of the Dalton Trail recorded in an unpublished manuscript Gold in the Klondyke (Box F-90, f.36).

MS
79/124-1
F-100, f.2

Garside, Nora (1961-1975)
A collection of reference files on Yukon related topics; folder 2 of which contains a clipping titled "Billy Henry can remember cattle trail to Klondike."

MS
82/256
F-46

Gates, M.S. (1969-1974)
A collection of reports written by Michael Gates and others on archaeological surveys in the southwestern Yukon and ethnohistory of the area. Of special interest are the following reports:

"Archaeological Reconnaissance in the Gladstone Pass Region, Southwest Yukon." (ca. 1973).

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MS 83/17 F-127
Marston, Roderick (1902)
Excerpts from the diary of Roderick Marston recounting his trip from San Francisco to Forty Mile with a "random notes" section listing locations and distances along the Dalton Trail.

MS R 78/101 F-62
Tyrrell, Joseph B. (1898)
Field notes of J.B. Tyrrell, geologist for the Geological Survey of Canada, on his expedition to the Klondike via the Dalton Trail in 1898.

CR 82/259 L/9/1
U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Alaska Field Office.
A preliminary report titled "The Dalton Trail" prepared by the Alaska Field Office as part of its study of Alaska Gold Rush Trails which could be included in the National Scenic Trails System.

MS 82/34 F-1
Waddington, Cal (ca. 1965-1972)
Manuscript written by Cal Waddington titled "Jimmy Kane - Living Yukon History" which relates incidents from the life of Jimmy Kane, an Indian of the Dalton Post area.

MS R 80/99 F-141
Warner, Iris (1980)
Manuscript written by Iris Warner on the history of Yukon roads.

MS 82/260 F-46
Workman, William B. (ca. 1973)
Report written by William Workman titled "The Cultural Significance of a Volcanic Ash Which Fell in the Upper Yukon Basin about 1400 Years Ago."

MS 83/21 F-128
Wright, Allen A. (1981-1982)
Draft manuscript for Kluane written by Allen Wright.

MS 81/118 F-114,f.5
Yukon Teacher Education Program - Yukon Studies Course (1981)
Papers on a variety of Yukon topics submitted by students for the Yukon Studies Course. Of special interest is a paper written by Ellen Harris titled "A History of the Development of Settlements in the Shakwak Valley Area."

III. PHOTOGRAPHS

Catalogued Photographs (consult inventory of each photograph collection for descriptions of the photographs)

MacBride Museum Collection: 3631-3718, 3720-3737, 3848, 3861, 3866, 3869, 3874, 3917-3918, 3923-3927, 3935, 3980-3982, 3985, 3986

H.C. Barley Collection: 4685-4697

Uncatalogued Photographs (consult the Uncatalogued Photograph Inventory Entry Binder under the names of the following collections for information of the contents of the collections)

82/390-1	Beatty, James Edward, H-179
82/199	Gates, Michael, H-178
85/11	Glave, Edward James, G-32
79/27	Harrington, Richard, H-118, Box 1 of 5, Dalton Post
82/360	McClellan, Catherine, H-54
82/344	Puckett, William Allan, H-50
79/123	Sheldon Museum Collection, H-135, (#3, 13-24)
82/15	Tyrrell, Joseph B. (FA), H-170 to H-173
82/1	Waddington, Margaret H., H-168 (#22)
backroom series	Department of the Interior, Annual Report, 1901. p. 179-195, (Report of Arthur Saint Cyr, D.L.S., with accompanying plates).

IV. Maps

R-239 Alsek, Kaskawulsh and Kluane Divisions of the Whitehorse Mining District. 1915.

R-241 Map of Part of the Yukon Territory Showing Wagon and Winter Roads Built During the Summer of 1902 Under Direction of the Honourable James H. Ross, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory. 1902.

H-205
H-524
H-582 Canadian Routes to the White River District, Yukon, and to Chisana District, Alaska. 1914.

H-563 Map of Alaska Showing the Various Routes of Reaching the Gold Regions. 1897.

H-1284 Topographical Map of Carmacks - Nisling Range Area with Annotations Concerned with Construction of Casino Access Roads for Nordex Exploration Ltd. and Mt. Nansen Mines Access Road. ca. 1960.

H-1309 NTS Sheets 114P and 115A with Annotations Concerning the Survey of Roads from Haines Junction or Champagne on the Alaska Highway to Tarr Inlet, Alaska or Haines, Alaska. ca. 1965.

Other maps showing the Dalton Trail are found in the Map Index in the division "Yukon - Trails, Roads, Railroads, Pipelines" under the heading "Klondike Gold Fields, Routes to".

V. Sound Recordings

SR Series 18 Tape 1 & 2	Cal Waddington interviews Jimmy Kane, Karl Heinmiller, Lib Hakkinen, Alan Innes-Taylor, Chuck Hume, Charlie Ross, and Midge Clayton about Jack Dalton, history of the Dalton Trail, and Chilkat Indians.